

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method for operating a computer to facilitate a choice of a financing product, said method comprising the steps of:

prompting a customer to provide information related to a financing requirement;

determining a proper financing product based upon provided information; and

prompting the customer with a recommendation for a financing product.

2. (original) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying a computer generated screen listing a plurality of financing type selections.

3. (original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein said financing type selections comprise at least one of project finance, high yield debt, leasing, project common equity, limited partnership, private equity and preferred equity.

4. (original) A method according to Claim 3 wherein for a project common equity financing type selection, prompting the customer to provide information comprises the step of displaying a computer generated screen prompting the customer to enter criteria to value the equity in their property.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the property is a power generation plant, the criteria requested being at least one of power plant information, current financing information, projected electricity prices and projected fuel costs.

6. (original) A method according to Claim 5 wherein default values are available for at least one of projected electricity prices and projected fuel costs, when specific values are not provided.

7. (original) A method according to Claim 3 further comprising the step of displaying a computer generated screen describing a selected financing type.

8. (original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein prompting the customer to provide information comprises the steps of:

displaying a computer generated screen listing a plurality of background questions relating to the financing requirement; and

displaying a computer generated screen listing a plurality of financing specific questions.

9. (original) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the background questions relating to the financing requirement comprise at least one of the country where financing is required, which energy related business is the financing for, is the financing required for an operating asset, are U.S. taxes currently being paid by the customer, is the customer interested in either of off-balance sheet or non-recourse financing, and is the customer interested in structured debt such as high yield debt or subordinated debt.

10. (original) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the financing specific questions comprise at least one of amount of financing, selling or optimizing equity position, willing to share control, upside potential and residuals of the asset, willing to subordinate equity distribution to a preferred equity investor, willing to be contacted regarding the financing, early stage pre-IPO company or company in early stage of corporate cycle and interested in financing senior to common equity but junior to lenders and trade creditors.

11. (original) A computer programmed to:

prompt a customer to provide information related to a financing requirement;

determine a proper financing product for the customer; and

prompt the customer with an inquiry as to whether they wish to pursue financing opportunities.

12. (original) A computer according to Claim 11 further programmed to display a computer generated screen listing a plurality of financing type selections.

13. (original) A computer according to Claim 12 wherein said financing type selections comprise at least one of project finance, high yield debt, leasing, project common equity, limited partnership, private equity and preferred equity.

14. (original) A computer according to Claim 13 wherein for a project common equity financing type selection, said computer displays, to the customer, a prompt to enter criteria to value the equity in their property.

15. (original) A computer according to claim 14 wherein the prompt is an interface to a valuation tool for power generation plants, the criteria requested being at least one of power plant information, current financing information, projected electricity prices and projected fuel costs.

16. (original) A computer according to Claim 15 wherein default values for at least one of projected electricity prices and projected fuel costs are available.

17. (original) A computer according to Claim 13, whereupon a selection of a financing type by the customer, said computer programmed to display, to the customer, a computer generated screen describing the selected financing type.

18. (original) A computer according to Claim 11, wherein to prompt the customer to provide information, said computer:

displays a computer generated screen listing a plurality of background questions relating to the financing requirement; and

displays a computer generated screen listing a plurality of financing specific questions upon entry of answers to background questions.

19. (original) A computer according to Claim 18, wherein the background questions relating to the financing requirement comprise at least one of the country where financing is required, which energy related business is the financing for, is the financing required for an operating asset, are U.S. taxes currently being paid by the customer, is the customer

interested in either of off-balance sheet or non-recourse financing, and is the customer interested in structured debt such as high yield debt or subordinated debt.

20. (original) A computer according to Claim 18, wherein the financing specific questions comprise at least one of amount of financing, selling or optimizing equity position, willing to share control, upside potential and residuals of the asset, willing to subordinate equity distribution to a preferred equity investor, willing to be contacted regarding the financing, early stage pre-IPO company or company in early stage of corporate cycle and interested in financing senior to common equity but junior to lenders and trade creditors.

21. (original) A database comprising:

data corresponding to answers to questions relating to a customers financing requirement; and

data corresponding to a recommended financing type for the customer.

22. (original) A database according to Claim 21 wherein data corresponding to answers further comprises data corresponding to answers to at least one of background questions and financing specific questions relating to the customers financing requirement.

23. (original) A database according to Claim 21 further comprising data corresponding to a valuation of one or more facilities.

24. (original) A database according to Claim 23 wherein the facilities are power generation plants.

25. (original) A database according to Claim 21 further comprising data corresponding to default values for electricity prices and fuel costs.

26. (original) A database according to Claim 21 further comprising data corresponding to a description of available financing types.

27. (original) A system for facilitating financing transactions, said system comprising:

a database comprising data corresponding to available financing type selections;
and

a server configured to prompt a customer to type and to prompt the customer provide answers to questions relating to a financing requirement.

28. (original) A system according to Claim 27 wherein said database further comprises data corresponding to answers to at least one of background questions and financing specific questions relating to the customers financing requirement.

29. (original) A system according to Claim 27 wherein said database further comprises data corresponding to a valuation of one or more facilities.

30. (original) A system according to Claim 29 wherein the facilities are power generation plants.

31. (original) A system according to Claim 27 wherein said server is configured to cause a screen listing a plurality of available financing type selections to be displayed at a client computer.

32. (original) A system according to Claim 31 wherein the financing type selections comprise at least one of project finance, high yield debt, leasing, project common equity, limited partnership, private equity and preferred equity.

33. (original) A system according to Claim 32 wherein for a project common equity financing type, said server causes to be displayed at a client computer a screen prompting the customer to enter criteria to value the equity in their facility.

34. (original) A system according to Claim 33 wherein said server is configured to generate a valuation of equity in a facility based upon customer entered criteria.

35. (original) A system according to Claim 33 wherein the valuation criteria includes at least one of the plant size, a heat rate, a percentage of revenues under contract, a number of years remaining under contract, a remaining term of the existing debt, an outstanding

principal, interest rate, electricity prices and an annual rate of increase, and projections of prices and projected fuel costs including an escalator.

36. (original) A system according to Claim 35 wherein said database further comprises data corresponding to default values for electricity prices and projected fuel costs.

37. (original) A system according to Claim 36 wherein said server is configured to use default values for at least one of electricity prices and projected fuel costs based upon customer entered valuation criteria.

38. (original) A method for initiating a financing transaction for a facility, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting, from an electronic interface, a financing type;

entering, into the electronic interface, contact information and information regarding the financing transaction; and

requesting, from the electronic interface, a further contact regarding the financing.

39. (original) A method according to Claim 38 wherein the financing types comprise at least one of project finance, high yield debt, leasing, project common equity, limited partnership, private equity and preferred equity.

40. (original) A method according to Claim 38 wherein for a project common equity financing type, said method further comprises the step of entering, into the electronic interface, criteria for valuation of the facility.

41. (original) A method according to Claim 40 wherein criteria for valuation of the facility comprises at least one of the plant size, a heat rate, a percentage of revenues under contract, a number of years remaining under contract, a remaining term of the existing debt, an outstanding principal, interest rate, electricity prices and an annual rate of increase, and projections of prices and projected fuel costs including an escalator.

42. (original) A method for determining a proper financing type for a facility, said method comprising the steps of:

entering, into an electronic interface, answers to background questions and answers to financing specific questions regarding the financing requirement; and

requesting, from the electronic interface, a financing type recommendation.

43. (original) A method according to Claim 42 wherein the background questions comprises at least one of the country where financing is required, which energy related business is the financing for, is the financing required for an operating asset, are U.S. taxes currently being paid by the customer, is the customer interested in either of off-balance sheet or non-recourse financing, and is the customer interested in structured debt such as high yield debt or subordinated debt.

44. (original) A method according to Claim 42 wherein the financing specific questions comprise at least one of amount of financing, selling or optimizing equity position, willing to share control, upside potential and residuals of the asset, willing to subordinate equity distribution to a preferred equity investor, willing to be contacted regarding the financing, early stage pre-IPO company or company in early stage of corporate cycle and interested in financing senior to common equity but junior to lenders and trade creditors.

45. (original) Apparatus comprising:

means for prompting a customer to select a financing type;

means for prompting the customer to provide information related to a financing requirement; and

means for prompting the customer with an inquiry as to whether they wish to pursue financing opportunities.

46. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 45 wherein said means for prompting a customer to select a financing type comprises means for displaying a computer generated screen listing a plurality of financing types.

47. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 46 wherein said financing types comprise at least one of project finance, high yield debt, leasing, project common equity, limited partnership, private equity and preferred equity.

48. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 47 wherein for project common equity, said means for prompting the customer to provide information displays a computer generated screen prompting the customer to enter information for a valuation of a facility.

49. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 48 wherein information for valuation of a facility comprises at least one of the plant size, a heat rate, a percentage of revenues under contract, a number of years remaining under contract, a remaining term of the existing debt, an outstanding principal, interest rate, electricity prices and an annual rate of increase, and projections of prices and projected fuel costs including an escalator.

50. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 49 wherein information for valuation of a facility comprises default values for at least one of electricity prices and projected fuel prices.

51. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 45 wherein said means for prompting the customer to provide information comprises means for displaying a computer generated screen listing a plurality of questions, including at least one of background questions and financing specific questions relating to the customers financing requirement.

[[56]]52. (currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 51 wherein the background questions comprise at least one of the country where financing is required, which energy related business is the financing for, is the financing required for an operating asset, are U.S. taxes currently being paid by the customer, is the customer interested in either of off-balance sheet or non-recourse financing, and is the customer interested in structured debt such as high yield debt or subordinated debt.

[[57]]53. (currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 51 wherein the financing specific questions comprise at least one of amount of financing, selling or optimizing equity position, willing to share control, upside potential and residuals of the asset, willing to

subordinate equity distribution to a preferred equity investor, willing to be contacted regarding the financing, early stage pre-IPO company or company in early stage of corporate cycle and interested in financing senior to common equity but junior to lenders and trade creditors.

[[58]]54. (currently amended) A system for facilitating financing transactions for one or more power generation plants, said system comprising:

a database comprising data corresponding to available financing type selections for power generation plants; and

a server configured to prompt a customer to provide answers to questions relating to power generation plant financing requirements.

[[59]]55. (currently amended) A system according to Claim [[58]]54 wherein said database further comprises data corresponding to answers to at least one of background questions and financing specific questions relating to the customers financing requirement.

[[60]]56. (currently amended) A system according to Claim [[58]]54 wherein said server is configured to cause a screen listing a plurality of available financing type selections to be displayed at a client computer.

[[61]]57. (currently amended) A system according to Claim [[60]]56 wherein the financing type selections comprise at least one of project finance, high yield debt, leasing, project common equity, limited partnership, private equity and preferred equity.

[[62]]58. (currently amended) A system according to Claim [[61]]57 wherein for a project common equity financing type, said server causes to be displayed at a client computer a screen prompting the customer to enter criteria to value the equity in their power generation plants.

[[63]]59. (currently amended) A system according to Claim [[62]]58 wherein said server is configured to generate a valuation of equity in one or more power generation plants based upon customer entered criteria.

[[64]]60. (currently amended) A system according to Claim [[62]]58 wherein the valuation criteria for the power generation plants includes at least one of the plant size, a heat rate, a percentage of revenues under contract, a number of years remaining under contract, a remaining term of the existing debt, an outstanding principal, interest rate, electricity prices and an annual rate of increase, and projections of prices and projected fuel costs including an escalator.

[[65]]61. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium, comprising:

a record of customer submitted facility data;

a plurality of rules for calculating equity in a facility, based upon customer submitted data; and

a record of results from applying said rules to the customer submitted data.

[[66]]62. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim [[65]]61 wherein said rules for calculating equity comprise rules based upon at least one of plant size, a heat rate, a percentage of revenues under contract, a number of years remaining under contract, a remaining term of the existing debt, an outstanding principal, interest rate, electricity prices and an annual rate of increase, and projections of prices and projected fuel costs including an escalator.

[[67]]63. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim [[65]]61 comprising a record of financing type selections comprising at least one of project finance, high yield debt, leasing, project common equity, limited partnership, private equity and preferred equity.